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## Book Reviews.

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**Biblical Introduction.** Old Testament by W. H. BENNETT, New Testament by W. F. ADENEY, Professors of Old and New Testament Exegesis in New College, London. New York: Thomas Whittaker, 1899. Pp. xii + 487. \$2.

It is a matter of unusual interest when a volume like this is published, the conscientious work of well-known scholars, prepared for the express purpose of passing on to the nonprofessional Bible student the assured results of biblical investigation. The need of a book like this has been increasingly felt for several years, and this *Biblical Introduction* by Professors Bennett and Adeney will, we believe, be found to possess many of the qualities which should characterize such a work. It is open to some minor criticisms, as will be seen, but on the whole it has well realized its aim, and its great usefulness can be safely predicted. The contents of the book may be considered more in detail.

*Old Testament.*—The desirability of an introduction to the Old Testament books standing somewhat nearer to the world of lay students of the Scriptures than the otherwise excellent volume of Professor S. R. Driver (*Introduction to the Literature of the Old Testament*) is patent to all biblical teachers. This volume goes far in the direction of supplying the need. It is intended for the purpose, is written by a competent scholar, and shows comprehension of the needs of such students. The biblical books are taken up in the order of the English version. The topics treated of are ordinarily: title, date, composition, contents, teaching, and New Testament use. The point of view may be a stumbling-block to some; it is that of the critical school. But for the critical decisions plain reasons are stated which can be tested, and much material is given which is quite independent of critical views. This is true of the archæological and historical sections in which is most valuable material, as well as of the sections on Teaching which furnish a kind of epitome of biblical theology.

In the critical portions the author shows great impartiality, presenting the various views often without attempting to decide between them. This feature of the work is admirable as illustrating the present state of biblical knowledge on many points, but cannot help being confusing

to a learner. In this respect, and in the abundance of references to writers whose work is in foreign languages, the book will appeal to advanced students rather than to those for whom it seems to have been intended. It seems to us, also, that the greater convenience of the reader would have been consulted had the author placed at the beginning of the treatment of each book a list of the principal authorities. In this respect he would have been wise to follow Dr. Driver. Some questions naturally arise as to the choice of books referred to in the bibliography placed at the end of the volume. Certainly Professor Kent's *History of the Hebrew People* ought to have been included.

On the whole, while for the world of American lay students this Old Testament introduction is still somewhat too technical, it will be found a valuable help in making the results of critical study more easily comprehensible to them.

G. S. G.

*New Testament.*—The portion of this work pertaining to the New Testament consists of 200 pages. Since many paragraphs containing critical discussion are in small type, we have an introduction of some size, larger, for instance, than Dods' *Introduction to the New Testament*, which has served a useful purpose for several years among nonprofessional Bible students. Adeney's *Introduction*, which we now have, is worthy to supersede the other small books on this subject; if it is not the ideal of what a book in this popular field should be, it goes a long way toward it. In the first place, the book is admirable in its arrangement of material; the chapter analyses, the section headings, the paragraph divisions, are well made. After eight pages on the history of the gospels in the second century, the synoptic gospels are taken up separately. Of each the authorship, date, place of composition, and destination are considered, followed by an analysis of the contents, and a section on the characteristics and purpose of the writing. Matthew is assigned to about the year 70 A. D., Mark to about 65 A. D., Luke to about 75 A. D. Then follows a chapter on the synoptic problem, which considers the resemblances between the three gospels, the differences, proposed explanations to account for both, and "probable conclusions" concerning the problem. Professor Adeney holds to the two-source documentary theory—Mark and Matthew's *Logia*, plus certain other sources unknown to us; he thinks Mark knew the *Logia*, and that Luke and the present Matthew were independent of one another.

The fourth gospel receives a conservative but discriminating treatment. The usual arguments, external and internal, for the Johannine

authorship are adduced and considered valid; the objections to John as the author are carefully and clearly presented, and replies are made to them. It is conceded that the language and the forms of thought in the gospel are probably those of the evangelist, and that the apostle may have written the gospel through one of his disciples. The date assigned is the closing years of the first century. The book of Acts has been disproportionately, shabbily treated; eight pages is all that it receives, while just that many pages are given to the single question of the authorship of the epistle to the Hebrews. This is almost unpardonable, for no New Testament book contains more problems today in number or in importance than the book of Acts; the historicity, aim, and characteristics of the writing are just touched upon, not considered. It is assigned to about the year 80 A. D., Luke being the author.

Then follow the Pauline epistles arranged in chronological order. Galatians is put after the two Corinthian epistles, although Professor Adeney adopts the south-Galatian view (p. 372), which quite surely draws that epistle to an earlier date. The composite character of 2 Corinthians is considered probable, with which we agree. We gladly note also that he has broken away from the influence of Lightfoot and Hort in placing Philippians last in the imprisonment group. The question of the genuineness of the pastoral epistles is treated at length (nine pages) and judiciously; the many difficulties are carefully weighed. His conclusion is that the genuineness cannot be "positively asserted," but that "it seems not unreasonable to regard them as Paul's, perhaps with more scope allowed to the amanuensis" (p. 414). For the epistle to the Hebrews he inclines to favor Barnabas, and assigns the writing to about the year 68 A. D., its destination being some community of Palestinian Jewish Christians other than that at Jerusalem. The well-known James of Jerusalem is regarded as the author of the epistle of James, which is assigned to some early date before 50 A. D. The second epistle of Peter is the only one of the epistles whose traditional authorship Professor Adeney questions; this letter, he thinks, may have been pseudonymous, and have arisen in the second century. The Revelation is excellently treated in the brief space allotted to it (nine pages). Its relation to other apocalyptic literature is noted, and the history of the criticism of the book is indicated. Whether the author of this composite work was the apostle John or the presbyter John he leaves undecided; the latest portions of the book he assigns to the last decade of the first century.

The most valuable characteristics of this New Testament introduction by Professor Adeney are: (1) its strong conservative spirit united with sound scholarship, making it a safe popular guide; (2) the fairness and ability with which the critical problems of the New Testament literature are set before the reader and considered; all previous popular works in this field have skimmed over the surface, carefully avoiding the real historical problems; (3) the concise and yet lucid style in which the book is written, giving just what is most important and useful; (4) the appendix containing a list of the early witnesses to the New Testament writings, and a good index to the whole volume; (5) and finally, the admirable list of books (pp. 471-81) to which the student is referred for more thorough work.

In this list of books we wonder why Wendt's *Apostelgeschichte* (1899) was not included on the Acts, in addition to the text-critical commentary by B. Weiss on that book; also no reference has been made to Sieffert on Galatians, or to Godet on 1 Corinthians. A few errors have been noted: on p. 369, line 11 from bottom; p. 396, line 2 from bottom; p. 479, lines 14 and 22, and lines 3 and 7 from bottom. On p. 309, line 7, the sentence, "Luke's historicity is considerably vindicated," is curiously worded; it reminds one of the amusing phrase, "extremely impossible," which appeared in the English translation of Kittel's *History of the Hebrews*.

C. W. V.

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**The Messages of the Later Prophets.** Arranged in order of time, analyzed, and freely rendered in paraphrase. By PROFESSOR F. K. SANDERS, PH.D., Yale University, and PROFESSOR C. F. KENT, PH.D., Brown University. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1899. Pp. 382. \$1.25.

Among the barriers which have stood between the Bible and the ordinary reader are the archaic language in which its messages reach us, and the difficulty of understanding the relation of the prophets and other writers to the times in which they lived. Among recent helps which have sought to overcome these difficulties the "Messages of the Bible," of which this book is the second volume, are worthy of a conspicuous place. Like its predecessor, this volume is sure to render notable service to all classes of Bible students who desire to secure a version of the prophets which at once interprets them in the light of contemporary history, and gives their message in modern form, adapted to the thought of the present time by emancipation from the so-called "sacred style," which not infrequently obscures the original. This book includes Obadiah, Ezekiel, the second part of the book of Isaiah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Joel and Jonah.